Establishment of Central University in Gujarat

1774. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to establish a Central University in Gujarat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government of Gujarat has already submitted details of suitable land and all other information required by Government; and

(c) if so, the place notified for the Central University in Gujarat and by when the University would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Gujarat is to provide, free of cost, about 500 acres of land for the Central University of Gujarat. The Central Government has constituted a Site Selection Committee to visit the sites offered by the State Government. The final selection of site will be made by the Central Government on the basis of the recommendations of the Site Selection Committee and the exact location of the University will be notified in the Official Gazette. The State Government has offered five sites in Sabarkantha district and one site in Gandhinagar. The Site Selection Committee is expected to visit these sites shortly. The University has, however, already started functioning from temporary premises in Gandhinagar.

Review of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Tamil Nadu

1775. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reviewed implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the shortcomings which were noticed in the scheme in the State;

(c) the steps Government has taken to remove these shortcomings;

(d) whether Government proposes to increase the fund allocation to the State for better implementation of the scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The Government reviews the implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) through various national/regional level meetings held from time to time. Besides, 42 Monitoring institutions have been assigned the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the MDMS in States/UTs. The Government also assesses the performance of the States/UTs through Quarterly Progress

Reports (QPRs). A national level review meeting of State Educational Secretaries Conference was held on 1st August, 2009 at New Delhi in which the implementation of the MDMS in Tamil Nadu was also reviewed. No serious shortcoming affecting implementation of MDMS in Tamil Nadu has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) As and when any serious issue concerning the implementation of the MDMS comes to the notice of the Government, the concerned State/UT is immediately asked to take necessary remedial action to ensure proper implementation of the Scheme.

(d) and (e) For providing better quality of mid day meal to children, the Government has brought about the following changes in the MDMS for all States/UTs with effect from 1.12.2009:-

(i) Revision of food norm for upper primary.

(ii) Revision of cooking cost (excluding the labour and administrative charges) from Rs.1.68 to Rs.2.50 for primary and Rs.2.20 to Rs.3.75 for upper primary children with effect from 1.12.2009.

(iii) A separate provision for engagement of cook-cum-helper on honorarium basis @ Rs.1000 per month to each cook-cum-helper.

(iv) Revision of cost of construction of Kitchen-cum-Store.

Soft loans to students

†1776. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, on the lines of NABARD and SIDBI, the proposed National Education Finance Corporation (NEFC) is also considering to provide soft loans to students;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) by when NEFC is likely to be constituted; and

(d) the details of the working of NEFC?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (d) A proposal to establish a National Higher Education Finance Corporation (NHEFC) to *inter alia*, provide refinance facilities to educational loans advanced by scheduled public sector banks is under consideration of Government.

World Bank report on secondary education

1777. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether latest World Bank report on secondary education observes that secondary education in India hardly gets the attention it deserves and remains highly inequitable across States;

(b) whether evidence from around the world suggests that secondary education is critical for breaking inter-generational transmission of poverty as it enables youth to break out of poverty trap;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.